

# 2003 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey



Many Iowa farmers hire some custom machine work in their farm business, or perform custom work for others. Others rent machinery or perform other services. The information below is based on a survey of 217 Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate from the survey and the range are shown. Twenty-two percent of the respondents perform custom work, 21 percent hire work done, and 56 percent indicated doing both.

Values below are rates expected to be charged or paid, including fuel and labor. This rate schedule is intended only as a guide. Actual custom rates may vary according to availability of machinery in a given area, timeliness, operator skill, field size and shape, crop conditions, and the performance characteristics of the machine being used. Machinery rental rates can be estimated on the back.

Tillage	Average	Range
Chopping cornstalks, / acre	\$7.05	5.00 – 10.00
Plowing – moldboard plow, / acre	11.75	9.50 – 15.00
– chisel, / acre	10.55	8.00 – 15.00
Disk/chiseling, / acre	11.20	7.50 – 13.75
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), / a.	12.65	9.00 – 16.00
V-ripper (over 15 in. deep), / acre	13.55	8.50 – 18.00
V-ripper with tandem disk, / acre	13.80	10.50 – 17.50
Disking – tandem, / acre	7.95	5.00 – 11.00
– offset, / acre	9.80	8.00 – 12.00
Harrowing, / acre	4.60	3.00 – 6.00
Soil finishing, / acre	8.90	5.50 – 13.00
Field cultivating, / acre	7.85	5.00 – 12.00
Cultivating, / acre	6.65	3.80 – 10.50
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	9.40	7.50 – 14.00
Rotary hoeing, / acre	5.00	3.00 – 6.50
Planting		
Planter – w/ fert & insect. attach., / a.	\$11.35	7.50 – 16.00
– without attachments, / acre	10.30	7.00 – 14.00
– with splitters, / acre	12.55	9.50 – 15.00
– no-till planter, / acre	12.10	8.00 – 15.00
– ridge till planter, / acre	12.60	11.50 – 15.00
Soybean drill, / acre	11.05	6.00 – 16.50
No-till soybean drill, / acre	12.55	8.00 – 18.00
Grain drill, / acre	9.50	6.00 – 13.00
No-till grass seed drill, / acre	11.95	8.00 – 15.00
Broadcast grass seeder, / acre	5.90	4.00 – 10.00
Fertilizer Application (materials not included)		
Dry bulk – applied, / acre	\$3.10	1.50 – 6.00
– applicator only, / acre	1.40	0.75 – 2.50
Liquid – applied, / acre	4.40	3.00 – 5.50
– applicator only, / acre	2.10	1.50 – 2.15
– strip-till, knifed, / acre	7.40	5.00 – 10.00
Anhydrous– applied, / acre	6.70	4.00 – 10.00
– applicator only, / acre	1.65	1.00 – 3.00
Spreading lime, / ton	3.85	2.00 – 7.00
Spraying (materials not included)		
Ground, broadcast, / acre	\$4.60	3.00 – 6.50
Ground, incorporated, / acre	8.80	6.00 – 12.00
Ground, banded, / acre	5.05	3.50 – 6.00
Rope wick applicator, / acre	4.65	4.00 – 5.00
Bean buggy, (without riders) / a.	4.55	4.00 – 5.00
Aerial, / acre	6.15	5.00 – 8.50
Ground, road ditches, / hour	36.45	20.00 – 60.00

Harvesting Grain	Average	Range
Corn combining, / acre	\$24.50	19.00 – 33.00
Soybean combining, / acre	23.65	18.00 – 30.00
Small grain combining, / acre	21.40	15.00 – 28.00
Picking ear corn, / acre (seed corn)	28.55	25.00 – 35.00
Picking ear corn, / acre	20.15	15.00 – 25.00
Drying corn		
– continuous flow dryer (/ bu.)	0.087	0.050 – 0.120
– continuous flow dryer (/ point)	0.026	0.020 – 0.030
– bin dryer (/ bu.)	0.091	0.070 – 0.110
– bin dryer (/ point)	0.022	0.015 – 0.025
– bin dryer (/ bu.) no fuel or labor	0.052	0.030 – 0.087
Handling grain (by auger), / bu.	0.042	0.005 – 0.100
Hauling grain, on-farm, wagon / bu.	0.048	0.020 – 0.110
Hauling grain, wagon, / bu. (1–way)	0.068	0.040 – 0.120
Hauling grain, truck, / bu., (1–way)	0.085	0.040 – 0.140
Hauling grain, / bu. /mile (1–way)	0.027	0.010 – 0.060
Hauling grain in field, grain cart, / acre	3.85	1.00 – 6.00
Storing grain, / bu., / month	0.020	0.010 – 0.050
Storing grain, / bu., / year	0.121	0.100 – 0.240
Storing ear corn, / bu., / year	0.105	0.100 – 0.120

Harvesting Forages	Average	Range
Hay – mowing, / acre	\$7.30	5.00 – 9.00
– mowing/conditioning, / acre	9.20	7.00 – 12.00
– raking, / acre	4.40	2.00 – 6.00
– windrowing, / acre	9.10	7.00 – 10.00
– mowing CRP acres, / acre	8.70	5.00 – 12.00
– mowing fence rows, ditches, /hr.	41.65	20.00 – 65.00
Hay baling – small square, / bale	0.390	0.250 – 0.500
– large square, / bale	7.60	6.50 – 9.00
– large round, / bale	7.45	5.00 – 10.25
– charge for plastic wrapping	1.40	0.50 – 2.25
– stack, 1 ton, / stack	11.00	10.00 – 11.60
– stack, 3 ton, / stack	24.30	23.60 – 25.00
Hay baling & storing, square, / bale	0.561	0.500 – 0.600
Straw or corn stalk baling, large round	9.10	5.00 – 13.00
Wrapping round bales, / bale, w. net	2.30	1.00 – 3.00
Silage – chopping, / acre	42.95	25.00 – 50.40
– chopping, / hr., / row	30.75	16.67 – 33.33
– chop, haul, fill upright silo, /hr, /row	37.50	28.33 – 50.00
– chop, haul, fill trench silo, /hr, /row	31.10	25.00 – 33.75
– silage bag filling (excluding bag)	44.50	42.00 – 50.00
Haylage – chopping, / hr., 7 foot hd.	67.10	50.00 – 85.00
– chopping, hauling, filling silo, / hr.	76.15	70.00 – 81.00

Machine Rental (operator, tractor, and fuel not included)	Average	Range
Tractor, / horsepower, / hour	\$ 0.184	0.100 – 0.316
Grain drill, / acre	7.80	5.00 – 10.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	8.80	7.50 – 12.00
Grain wagon, / bu.	0.050	0.025 – 0.080
Grain auger, / bu.	0.027	0.010 – 0.050
Grain cart with auger, / bu.	0.041	0.020 – 0.080
Grain vacuum, / bu.	0.057	0.030 – 0.100
Grain cleaner, / bu.	0.030	0.024 – 0.040
Liquid manure spreader, / hour	19.45	15.00 – 25.00
Solid manure spreader, / hour	18.55	18.00 – 20.00
Skid loader, / hour	37.65	15.00 – 60.00
Silage wagon, / hour	6.95	6.00 – 8.00
Power washer, / hour	20.80	12.00 – 25.00
Tub grinder, / hour	115.25	50.00 – 180.00
Brush chopper, / acre	9.20	5.00 – 10.00

Miscellaneous Services	Average	Range		Average	Range
Moving round bales, / bale	\$3.05	1.00 – 5.00	Bulldozing, / hr. / ft. of blade	\$8.10	5.00 – 12.50
Moving round bales by truck, / mile	\$1.75	1.00 – 3.00	Digging post holes, / hole	2.70	1.00 – 5.00
Removing snow (loader), / hr.	50.35	20.00 – 75.00	Building terraces, / foot	1.30	1.00 – 1.60
Removing snow (blade), / hr.	46.70	25.00 – 70.00	Trenching, / foot	0.770	0.500 – 1.000
Removing snow (blower), / hr.	64.60	30.00 – 90.00	Tiling (ex. materials), / rod	8.90	4.00 – 16.00
Grinding, mixing feed, / ton	8.30	5.00 – 14.00	Back hoeing, / hour	56.45	40.00 – 80.00
Spreading liq. manure, broadcast, /hr.	31.50	28.00 – 35.00	Chopping brush, / acre	12.95	10.00 – 15.60
Spreading liq. manure, inject.,/1,000 gal.	8.80	5.50 – 10.00	Cleaning seed, / bu.	0.618	0.500 – 0.750
Loading solid manure, / hour	41.65	25.00 – 50.00	Shearing sheep, / head	2.35	2.00 – 2.55
Loading, spreading solid manure, / hr.	61.30	35.00 – 75.00	Scouting crops, / acre	3.35	1.00 – 6.00
Building fence, / hour (no materials)	11.85	8.00 – 15.00	Soil testing, / sample	7.15	5.00 – 10.00
Building fence, / rod (no materials)	7.25	5.00 – 8.50	GPS grid soil testing, / acre	6.50	3.00 – 10.00
Hauling livestock, / mile	1.70	1.00 – 2.50	Rock picking, / acre	13.20	10.00 – 15.25
<b>Custom Farming – growing and harvesting</b>			<b>Farm Labor Wages</b>		
Corn, / acre	\$76.15	50.00 – 100.00	Machinery operating, / hour	\$9.00	6.00 – 12.50
Soybeans, / acre	68.05	45.00 – 95.00			
Small grain, / acre	53.40	45.00 – 65.00			

## Average 2003 Farm Custom Rates, by Area

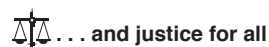
The table below shows average custom rates reported for some common operations in different areas of the state. Not enough responses were received for other operations to provide reliable estimates.

Operation	Northwest	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast
Chisel plow	\$10.10	\$10.10	\$11.60	\$10.50
Moldboard plow	11.05	11.70	11.55	12.40
Tandem disk	7.50	7.95	8.15	8.20
Field cultivate	7.55	7.90	7.70	8.35
Plant, with attachments	10.35	11.20	12.10	11.85
Cultivate, conventional	6.50	6.55	6.75	7.10
Spray, ground, broadcast	4.15	4.85	4.65	4.75
Combine corn	23.30	24.65	24.65	24.90
Combine soybeans	22.35	23.90	23.10	24.25
Combine small grain	20.20	21.20	20.90	22.05
Square baling, / bale	0.40	0.38	0.38	0.41
Round baling, / bale	7.80	7.75	7.25	7.35
Machinery labor, / hour	9.45	9.15	8.55	9.15

## Estimating Machinery Rental Rate

1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/acre
2. Percent of custom charge which is for interest, insurance, depreciation, and repairs (excluding fuel and labor) \_\_\_\_\_%  
(use 70% for tillage, 80% for planting and harvesting)
3. Rental value, including tractor (1 x 2) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/acre
4. Tractor rental value, if tractor is not provided:  
\_\_\_\_\_HP x \$ \_\_\_\_\_per hp–hour rental rate / \_\_\_\_\_acres/hour = \$ \_\_\_\_\_/acre  
(See PM 696, “Estimating Field Capacity of Farm Machines.”)
5. Implement rental value, without tractor (3 minus 4) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/acre

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